

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: H. R. 6277

1. The twofold purpose of the Bill is (a) to establish a unified personnel system for Foreign Service personnel and (b) to provide liberalized benefits for employees serving abroad under unusual hardship conditions. Some of these benefits apply only to employees in the Foreign Service system but could be adopted by us, and the others are of general applicability for all Government employees assigned abroad.

2. Section 522(b). This provision does away with statutory time limitation on Foreign Service Reserve Officers. Present statutory provisions permit only two consecutive five-year appointments with one-year interval following before another five-year appointment is authorized. This provision meets one of our long-standing needs.

3. Section 522(a). This provision adds a new personnel category, Foreign Affairs Officer, which will tend to increase the number of people in the professional pool below the Foreign Service Officer category who are eligible for overseas assignments.

4. Section 433. This provision authorizes a 15 per cent salary differential for frequent travelers into hardship areas abroad. We support this provision and would adopt it if enacted.

5. Section 664. This provision authorizes the Secretary to compensate alien employees under the Missing Persons Act who are imprisoned, etc., as a result of employment by the United States, and is a convenient vehicle for handling our cases if it covers all Federal employees and is not limited to Department of State. It is our belief that the wording of the provision does not restrict its application to aliens employed by the Department of State.

6. Section 944. This provision continues medical expense payments to employees or dependents after the employee is separated or dies. Assume authority is permissive only and that Secretary will issue regulations under it. We support this provision and would adopt it if enacted.

7. Section 27. We strongly support this provision for authorizing up to 50 per cent salary differential for employees stationed "where there is unusual danger of injury due to hostile activity...." The present maximum for this differential is 25 per cent.

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1) While not presently in the Bill, a member of the Committee has suggested that an objective test be administered to FSR's. We would be against adoption of such a provision for either FSR's or FAO's.

2) Section 664. This provision which authorizes the Secretary to compensate alien employees under the Missing Persons Act for employment as a result of employment by the United States will facilitate our handling of cases if it covers all Federal employees and is not limited to Department of State. It is our belief that the wording of the provision does not restrict its application to aliens employed by the Department of State.

3) Section 944. We support this provision to continue medical expense payments to employees or dependents after the employee is separated or dies. Assume authority is permissive only and that Secretary will issue regulations under it.

4) Section 22 of the Bill. Lines 7 and 8 on page 10 authorize the President to transfer personnel of other Government agencies engaged in foreign affairs functions to positions under the Foreign Service personnel system. This could include our personnel. Understand that this provision has been deleted.

5) Section 205 of the Annual and Sick Leave Act. We strongly support this six-month administrative leave provision to take care of a number of problem cases we now have on hand. We assume one of the primary justifications is the Saigon bombing incident of 29 March 1965. Therefore, we would strongly recommend that this amendment be made retroactive. The date of 1 January 1965 would prove most helpful in order to handle several other cases of serious injury due to hostile actions.

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Remarks:

Delivered to Mr. Robert Michaels, House Appropriations Committee staff, blind memo setting forth the cases we would cover if the administrative leave provision were made retroactive.

13 July 1965

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